

the owner of this money, he will recompense your integrity, to his reward I will add a part of the money I have saved; Lucetta shall be your's; I will take upon me to obtain her father's consent; you are worthy of each other. If the money which you have deposited with me is not reclaimed, it belongs to the poor; you are the poor; in restoring it to you, I shall think that I act in obedience to Providence, who, by your finding it, and lodging it with me, has already marked you as an object of his favour.

The two lovers retired, satisfied with having done their duty, and enlivened with the hope of being united.

The bag was proclaimed in the rector's parish; advertisements of it were posted up at Veinfield, and all the neighbouring villages. It was claimed by many avaritious and selfish persons; but none of them gave an accurate account of the sum, the specie, and the bag which contained it.

In the mean time the rector did not forget that he had promised to espouse Perrin's interest. He took a little farm for him, he bought him cattle and implements of husbandry, and, two months after, he married him to Lucetta.

The hearts of the fortunate couple, who now had arrived to the summit of their wishes, daily

daily overflowed with gratitude to heaven, and to the rector.

Perrin was industrious, Lucetta was attentive to her domestic affairs. They paid their landlord with the most rigid punctuality, they lived moderately on their profits, and were happy.

Two years expired, and the money was not reclaimed by the owner. The rector thought it superfluous to wait any longer; he took it to the virtuous pair whom he had united. My children, said he, enjoy the bounty of Providence without abusing it: this one hundred pounds is yours now, employ it to your honest advantage. If you should ever discover the lawful owner of it, you ought undoubtedly to restore it to him: dispose of it in such a manner, that though you change the substance, you may retain the value.

Perrin followed his advice; he resolved to purchase the farm which he rented. It was to be sold, and was estimated at more than one hundred pounds, but for ready money Perrin hoped to buy it at that sum. The gold which he found, he only looked upon as a deposit, it could not (he thought) be better secured, and the rightful possessor, if he should ever meet with him, could not be a loser.

The rector approved the project, and the purchase was soon made. As Perrin was now proprietor of the land which he had framed,
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